

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-15 EB-11 SCEM-02 COME-00 INT-08 TRSE-00 CIEP-02

RSR-01 COA-02 /132 W

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R 191317Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

TO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 3138

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEHRAN 5078

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, PBQR, TC, IR

SUBJECT: REPORTED IRANIAN/DUBAI EXPLOITATION OF NEW OIL FIELDS

REF: ABU DHABI 964

1. EMBOFFS INTERVIEWED MADJ OF FOREIGN MINISTRY AND PARVIZ MINA OF NIOC ON SUBSTANCE REFTEL. MADJ CONFIRMED THAT GOI EXPECTS RASHID'S SON MUHAMMAD ABOUT AUGUST 20. ALTHOUGH NO TALKS SCHEDULED, GOI FULLY EXPECTS THAT SUBJECT WILL COME UP, BUT WILL NOT RPT NOT ITSELF TAKE INITIATIVE IN RAISING QUESTION. MADJ ALSO EMPHASIZED THAT WHILE GOI ENTIRELY PREPARED NEGOTIATE FLEXIBLY WITH ANY AUTHORIZED DUBAI REPRESENTATIVE ON MEDIAN LINE QUESTION,

IRANIAIU WILL INSIST THAT ANY RESULTING AGREEMENT MUST BE FORMALLY APPROVED BY UAEG, PREFEREABLY THROUGH SIGNATURE BY UAE REPRESENTATIVE AS WELL AS BY REPS GOI AND DUBAI.

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2. NIOC AND FOREIGN MINISTRY ARE IN AGREEMENT THAT IRANIAN WATERS, IN

ABSENCE OF AGREEMENT, EXTEND 12 MILES FROM SHORELINE INCLUDING SHORELINE OF ISLANDS SUCH AS SIRRI. HOWEVER, GOI QUITE WILLING MODIFY THIS POSITION IN A MEDIAN LINE TREATY, AS IT DID IN NEGOTIATING SUCH REATY WITH SAUDI ARABIA. IN FACT, MINA HAD DISCUSSIONS WITH TAJIR IN 1971, PRESUMABLY FOLLOWING RASHID-SHAH CONVERSATION PARA 4 REF-TEL, WHICH RESULTED IN TENTATIVE AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE WHICH NEVER WENT ANY FURTHER. GOI WILL USE THIS AS STARTING POINT IN DISCUSSIONS WITH MUHAMMAD.

3. IN IRANIAN VIEW, FIRST PRIORITY IS TO GET MEDIAN LINE SETTLED BY AGREEMENT. NIOC WILL THEN DISCUSS JOINT EXPLOITATION WITH ANY OIL COMPANY OR GOVERNMENT INTERESTED IN SUCH EXPLOITATION. GOI IS AWARE OF RELAXED ATTITUDE SHEIKH RASHID (PARA 5 REF-TEL) AND BELIEVES THAT, SINCE ITSELF PREPARED BE FLEXIBLE, MEDIAN LINE AGREEMENT SHOULD BE ATTAINABLE WITHOUT NEED RESORT DEVICES SUCH AS NEUTRAL ZONE. MADJ SUGGESTED THAT ONE APPROACH MIGHT BE TO DETERMINE AREA IN DISPUTE AND THEN CREATE MEDIAN LINE GIVING HALF OF THIS AREA TO EACH OF PARTIES.

4. MINA CONFIRMED THAT ERAP DRILLING WELL ABOUT 10 MILES OFF SIRRI. HOWEVER, IF MUHAMMAD TELLS GOI THAT SUSPENSION OF DRILLING WOULD ASSIST MEDIAN LINE NEGOTIATIONS, GOI WOULD PROBABLY COMPLY.

5. NOT CLEAR FROM REFTTEL WHETHER DUBAI REJECTS IRANIAN CLAIM TO SIRRI. HOWEVER, IF DUBAI DOES NOT REJECT THIS CLAIM, FORTHRIGHT STATEMENT THAT EFFECT AT OUTSET WOULD BE EXTREMELY HELPFUL AND GET NEGOTIATIONS OFF TO GOOD START TOWARD GETTING AGREEMENT QUICKLY. HECK

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